Oak Springs, Iowa has decided to redesign a ten mile stretch of Ironhorse Avenue which is a popular route through the city. The town has run into controversy with its residents and is currently unsure of how to handle the project. I have been assigned to address the issues at hand give our recommendations on the subject.

For the scenery alongside of Ironhorse Avenue, as a result the popularity vote, we propose to build cement benches, plant perennial shrubs, and plant flowering bushes. These three are relatively cheap and can add a lot of color to a commuter’s drive. I feel that some Oak trees could be planted as well but keep their numbers limited. I say this because the information I was given states that this is a major roadway and if a major natural disaster should accrue; emergency vehicles can’t afford to wait for road to be cleared of fallen tree limbs. I also feel that the fountains would be too costly to install and maintain.

To finance this project, I propose to use Municipal Bonds, Government Bonds and a slight increase in sales tax. I chose Bonds because these are often used in long term projects and a safe form of investing (Investing in Bonds). I also recommend increasing sales tax; because, even though this method will be unpopular, after the Ironhorse Avenue project this new tax can go help to fund new projects and help the city with repair costs. I wouldn’t try to increase property tax; increasing the sales tax is already a stretch.

The design option I would recommend would to create a four lane road with one sidewalk and bike lanes on both sides. In order to cut costs I feel that only one side walk is needed and with a bike lane there is less chance of bikers running over those who are walking. If two bike lanes become expensive; one bike lane will be satisfactory but this road needs at least one. According to Bicyclinginfo.org: 618 bikers in 2009 were killed in vehicle collisions. Let’s not have any in Oak Springs.

I currently don’t have enough data on whether to move the Bird Sanctuary or to keep it where it is. If this Bird Sanctuary is a popular attraction or desperately in need of updates; I would give the okay to move it to the new location. The price of sunflower seeds is currently going up and will continue according to Backyardchirper.com, so if the building is moved, I suggest moving the building to a place with enough room to allow for the bird keepers to grow their own seed and reduce their cost. If however, this sanctuary isn’t a major attraction; I would advise to keep it where it is. If the building left in current location, I would suggest building a sound barrier wall to prevent the vehicle noise from disturbing the birds.

This is ten mile stretch with only one bus stop in the middle; this means the people have to walk five miles either way just to get to this bus stop. I propose to add two more bus stops: One at both ends of the street and one in the middle. This will reduce walking time and increase the convenience of using the bus which will help to reduce our ecological footprint on our planet. “The American Public Transit Association claims that public transit saves an estimated 1.4 billion gallons of gas annually, which translates into about 14 million tons of CO2.(Rubin)”

I have given these suggestions based on the issues that were made known to me. If the city council finds a new issue or has any new information please submit it and I will give the council a revised proposal.

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